

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

Polymeric electrochemical cell components having a perimeter edge reinforced by a band or hoop that is preferably made from a high tensile strength material that resists elongation under tension. Preferred band materials include metals and polymer fibers such as aromatic polyamide fibers. The band may be positioned around the perimeter of the polymer component in any reasonable fashion, including pressed fit around the component, formed about the component, wound about the component, or merely positioned adjacent at a narrow gap from the component. Furthermore, the band may be dedicated to a single component or the band may reinforce the plurality of component that establish a sub-assembly, sub-stack or complete stack of electrochemical cells.